

Saint Anastasia Parish Pastoral Council had its third meeting of the year on Thursday, February 13, 2020. After our opening reflective prayer, we read together our Mission Statement and approved the minutes from the previous meeting.

Council members have been reading the book [The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic](#) to discuss at the meetings. We discussed chapter four which highlighted “generosity” as a characteristic of a dynamic Catholic.

The Committee Reports highlights included news from the Promotion Committee with information on the upcoming *Anastasian*, and on Lenten events and activities posted on the parish website. A special Lenten feature on the website is a virtual small group. Parishioners can read the Sunday readings, watch a short video reflection, and then share any thoughts they may have at saintanastasia.net. The Welcoming Committee reports that in December and January 10 new families registered in the parish.

Father Colagreco spoke with Council about the many individuals and groups that approach him to either speak or have sales at the Sunday Masses. The parish will develop new guidelines about limiting speakers and sales so as not to weary the people attending Mass.

A Pastoral Council subcommittee called Increasing Parish Participation was formed many months ago and the members have been working diligently with planning and implementing a process to form and meet with focus groups of parishioners to solicit ideas about how to increase parish participation. For a few months, members of Council approached people who regularly attend Mass and asked them to participate in a focus group. In all, twenty-three parishioners took part in five different focus groups from October through December. The Committee members were impressed with the interest and enthusiasm of the attendees who offered honest and thoughtful comments about the parish. Council will continue to discuss these focus group findings over the next few meetings to determine our next steps with these comments and recommendations. The Committee recommends that these focus groups be ongoing.

Father Colagreco brought to the attention of Council some good news: two of our parish school students won Neumann scholarships (four year scholarships to a Catholic high school of their choice): Joanie Quinn and Theresa Stolarczyk.

The next Pastoral Council meeting is Thursday, April 16th. These are the Pastoral Council members:



*Seated: Linda Cellucci, Lucia Biddle, Brigid Shank, Meghan DiRosato, Lori Smargiassi
Standing: Jim Murphy, Joe Crimmins, John Loughran, Denis Glavin, Sister Mary Barrar, Maria Mooney,
Father Colagreco, Deacon Chris Hilden, Theresa Haggerty, Father Dwyer, George Schaefer*

As ever, if you have any comments or questions for Pastoral Council, please email us at: pastoralcouncil@saintannies.org